

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DJIBOU 00681 111523Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 MCT-01 SY-05 IO-13 HA-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00

/084 W

-----071130 111551Z /45

O 111445Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 921

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

COMIDEASTFOR

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L DJIBOUTI 0681

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PDIP, ASEC DJ, ET, FR

SUBJ: FURTHER ON KIDMAPPING CASE

REF: DJIBOUTI 650

SUMMARY--ADDIS AUTHORITIES CONTINUE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH FRENCH TOWARD RECOVERY OF KIDNAPPED FRENCH CITIZEN BOUCAULT. MESSAGE FROM AFAR DISSIDENT GROUP CLAIMING TO HOLD FRENCHMAN PASSED FRENCH EMBASSY IN ADDIS. I DEMANDED PUBLICATION OF COMMUNIQUE OVER FRENCH RADIO. FRENCH INSTEAD PUBLICLY REJECT AFAR GROUP DEMANDS, BUT REMAIN CONFIDENT THAT ETHIOPIANS WILL DELIVER BOUCAULT IN GOOD HEALTH.

1. ON MORNING 10 MAY, FRENCH EMBASSY OFFICER, DESCRIBED AS PRESS REPRESENTATIVE, RECEIVED CALL FROM SOMEONE IDENTIFYING HIMSELF AS ALEO MOHAMMED OF THE UNION NATIONALE POUR L'INDEPENDENCE (UNI) "EXTERIOR FRONT." CALLER DICTATED A CONFIDENTIAL

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COMMUNIQUE TO FRENCH EMBOFF IN WHICH "THE TYRANNICAL GOULED GOVERNMENT" WAS TOLD TO "REINSTATE DEMOCRACY...TAKE ENOUGH AFARS INTO ARMY TO PROVIDE PARITY WITH ISSAS...AND TO LIBERATE DETAINEES..." MESSAGE ENDED WITH THREAT THAT KIDNAPPING OF BOUCAULT "ONLY THE BEGINNING."

2. THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WAS TOLD TO BROADCAST THE "UNI

EXTERIOR FRONT" COMMUNIQUE ON EVENING INTERNATIONAL NEWS BROADCASTS. THE FRENCH REJECTED THAT DEMAND AND INSTEAD BROADCAST A NEWS ITEM STATING THAT REBEL GROUP HAD MADE UNACCEPTABLE DEMANDS INFRINGING ON SOVEREIGNTY OF REPUBLIC OF DJIBOUTI AND CALLED UPON REBEL GROUP TO RETURN BOUCAULT IN GOOD HDKLTH. FRENCH AMBASSADOR ALSO STATED THAT DEMANDS MADE UPON IT IN MESSAGE RECEIVED AT THEIR EMBASSY IN ADDIS ABABA WERE IN FACT NOT IN ITS POWER TO COMPLY WITH. MESSAGE WAS REPEATED IN FRANCE INTER MORNING NEWS BROADCAST TODAY.

3. IN MEANTIME, FRENCH EMBASSY IN ADDIS ABABA TURNED OVER COMMUNIQUE TO ETHIOPIAN AUTHORITIES WHO PROMISED TO SEND HIGH OFFICIAL TO ALY DAAR CAMP ON 11 MAY TO ARRANGE THE MATTER. ETHIOPIAN REPRESENTATIVE ACTUALLY LEFT ON 10 MAY IN GOVERNMENT AIRCRAFT, INDICATING IMPORTANCE THAT GOVERNMENT HAS IN PUTTING INCIDENT ASIDE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THERE HAS NOT YET BEEN ANY NEWS FROM THIS ETHIOPIAN MISSION.

4. FRENCH EMBASSY DJIBOUTI HAD NOT INFORMED DJIBOUTI GOVERNMENT OF COMMUNIQUE DEMAND AS OF NOON LOCAL TIME 11 MAY. AMBASSADOR BASTOUIL EXPLAINED TO CHARGE THAT FRENCH CONSIDER MATTER AT PRESENT TIME TO BE BETWEEN THEM AND THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT, AND THEY DID NOT WISH THE DJIBOUTIANS TO MAKE ANY STATEMENTS WHICH MIGHT SHOW THE ARRANGEMENTS BEING MADE BY THE ETHIOPIANS.

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5. SEVERAL REPORTS REACHING EMBASSY THIS MORNING INDICATED THAT FRENCH MILITARY MIGHT BE PREPARING STRIKE AT THE ALY DARR CAMP. I DID NOT ATTACH ANY PARTICULAR CREDENCE TO THIS REPORT, AND AMBASSADOR BASTOUIL TOLD ME THAT HE WOULD FIRMLY OPPOSE ANY SUCH ACTION WHICH WOULD CONSIDERABLY COMPLICATE FRENCH AND DJIBOUTI RELATIONS WITH ETHIOPIA. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD CONTACT ETHIOPIAN CHARGE MUSA YASSIN TO ASSURE HIM THAT NO FRENCH MILITARY RESCUE PLANS EXIST. AMBASSADOR BASTOUIL UID THAT FRENCH INTELLIGENCE FILES OFFER NO INFOMATION ON ALEO MOHAMMED.

7. AMBASSADOR BASTOUIL CONTINUES TO BE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT BOUCAULT CASE, FEELING THAT POSITIVE MOVES BEING TAKEN BY THE ETHIOPIAN AUTHORITIES WILL RESULT IN SAFE RELEASE AND IN CONSIDERABLE RELAXATION OF TENSIONS BETWEEN DJIBOUTI AND ETHIOPIA AT SAME TIME.

CLARKE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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TAGS: PINS, PDIP, ASEC, DJ, ET, FR, UNI, UNION ROYALE POUR LE INDEPENDENCE, (BOUCAULT, M)
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